

ANFIELD TO GO ON STAGE

An Robber Wants to Tell of his Experience in the Penitentiary.

RICHMOND, VA.—Special.—Morganfield is an ex-convict. He knows a good deal about the penitentiary. He was there five years.

Morganfield was sent to the penitentiary in 1895 for robbing a train between Richmond and Washington. He was there for five years. He was never made public. It was said to be in the neighborhood of \$75,000. After robbing the express coach Morganfield and his confederates, Seary, cut loose the engine and sent it off full speed upon the track to meet an incoming passenger train. Had the collision occurred the loss of life would have been frightful. The wild engine was side-tracked, however, and ran on a coal dump. Morganfield and Seary were captured. The latter turned State's evidence and was sentenced to eight years. The more daring of the two, the man who is said to have planned the kidnapping, was given eighteen years.

Seary's robber now says that he never knew Morganfield during his imprisonment. He says that during his release on parole he was in the same place as Morganfield. He says that Morganfield was a very good fellow and that he was a very good fellow. He says that Morganfield was a very good fellow and that he was a very good fellow.

Matinee Idol.

Since he was liberated, however, Morganfield has blossomed into a kind of matinee idol. His great train robber lost none of his greatness in his confinement. He was an ex-convict, but he was a hero—the man who sent the wild engine upon the track to meet the downcoming passenger train in the heart of the city. He was a hero in the mind of the public and the activity of the police could not be diverted until he and his confederate could quietly slip out of the country.

The crime for which he was imprisoned has been lost sight of almost entirely. He stands out a pathetic figure, a man who has become a little short of a hero—the man who sent the wild engine upon the track to meet the downcoming passenger train in the heart of the city. He was a hero in the mind of the public and the activity of the police could not be diverted until he and his confederate could quietly slip out of the country.

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of the looted train, fearing that the robbers would send the engine back on his train, ordered all the passengers from the car and ordered them on one side of the cut. The express messengers, Harry Murray and Percy Crutcher, representing the Adams Express Company, were regarded as valuable put in their charge. Had been stolen, and they had been helpless to prevent it, as Morganfield had threatened to blow their brains out if they interfered.

Splendid Loot.

The express car had contained what was known as the "bankers' mail" from the South. What Morganfield carried away was never given out. One of the packages which he took, however, and he took more than one—was said to contain \$22,000.

Not knowing what might happen next, it was impossible for Captain Birdsong to leave his train. He ordered the Pullman porter to go to Widewater and report the hold-up. The porter swore he wasn't "koin' no-war." He "just wanted to get back to his home and his family and his God." He would never get on another train.

Finally two gentlemen volunteered to take up to the station. It was about four miles from the scene of the robbery, and they reached it in about three-quarters of an hour. The operator once flashed the signal, but his division superintendent, and plans were at once devised for getting the belated passengers to Washington. Meanwhile, the wild engine, running at what appeared to be not less than seventy miles an hour, had rushed by Widewater Station. The operator, knowing that the train would be due in a few minutes, and that a disaster of frightful proportions would result unless it could be stopped, flashed the danger signal to Quantico, where the operator hastening out of his office, threw the switch of a sidetrack. In a few seconds the engine was stopped, and the great steel mogul veered from the main track on a coal dump, utterly demolishing half a dozen loaded coal cars.

Hardly had the danger of the first collision been averted when the rear of the Southern engine was heard. With the exception of a siding, the road from that point to the cut, in which the other train was standing, was single track, and another wreck was threatened. Red lights flashed by the Quantico operator brought the incoming train to a sudden standstill, and the engine sent down the siding, and the delayed passengers finally pulled into Quantico.

Robber's Escape.

Morganfield and Seary had disappeared. Several days later, however, in one of the dives in Calverton, Md., the two men are supposed to have been seen. Morganfield was arrested again, but detectives were not close upon them that within a short time Seary was caught. Morganfield was taken back to Stafford county, Md., where he was indicted by the grand jury November 21st following. The State's evidence, and told the whole story. Both were sent to the penitentiary. Morganfield's term began June 6, 1895, over a year after his crime had been committed.

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ent Wood's management he declares he has little criticism. Morganfield says that life under Superintendent Wood is not like the life he spent under former Superintendents. Major Wood's estate has a kind of "honor system," and has placed the whips and clubs, which the train robber declares formed the daily fare of some convicts in days gone by, entirely in the background. There are less violations and less punishment, but some of the "inhuman guards" are left, and these Morganfield says he is going to expose.

He says he is innocent and has always been innocent. He says he has been unjustly treated, and that conditions at the penitentiary even now are far from what they should be. And so he says he is going to hire a hall and tell all about it.

Value of Good Resolutions.

Success in this world usually comes only after repeated failure has been overcome by constantly renewed effort. Goodness in man is a product of slow growth—the result of temptation gradually put under foot, of difficulties repeatedly met and grappled with, and of the triumphs thereby secured. The best way to grow better is to resolve to grow better, and to stick to that resolution as well and as long as the temptations and circumstances will permit. He who never resolves, never accomplishes; he who never sets himself a mark, never reaches anything worthy of his manhood. Applying the Tennysonian philosophy: 'Tis better to have resolved and failed than never to have attempted at all.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

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PRISON IS NOT FULL OF "HORRORS"

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As an example of yellow journalism and of the perils of intrusting a green young man with a typewriter and ambitious for a sensation access to newspaper columns News regarding the Richmond News Leader regarding the State Penitentiary is instructive. Careful reading will show that the horrors of the prison which they ever occurred or existed, were ended years back. The writer of the article, either through confusion in his own mind or intentionally, jumbles past and present together so thoroughly that it is hard to fix any time for the conditions of which he tells. Careless or hasty reading will cause the impression that frightful cruelties prevailed in the State Penitentiary until within the last year. Consequently, the public would be led to condemn the State government. Worse than that, it would be led to do serious injustice to a dead man, the late Superintendent Morgan, one of the most humane of men and capable officials.

It is peculiarly inappropriate that so much ignorance of penitentiary matters should be manifested through the columns of a newspaper. That newspaper was the first in the State of Virginia to take up the question of penitentiary reform. Through many editorial columns it has protested, demanding the changes which gradually have come about. It happens that the writer of this article, before the coming of several years the president of a society of men who had served their sentences and were grateful to the State for having made any inmate contact with the convicts. Its agents, first the Rev. George H. Wiley and now the Rev. William W. Williams, the secretary of the colored Young Men's Christian Association, were permitted free access to the convicts a month before the writer's release and opportunity at all times to observe all the inner workings of the prison. It had full opportunity through the convicts to know exactly what went on there. These convicts were of all grades of intelligence and all varieties of character. It is a fact that the last five years few of them were the first to begin their term of imprisonment. They were not the "hardened criminals" of the past. They were men who had been brought on from their own homes and who had been brought on from their own homes and who had been brought on from their own homes.

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DISEASES SHOW MARKED DECLINE

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That two of Virginia's most dread diseases, typhoid fever and typhus, have declined in 1910 is the most important note in the statement of Health Commissioner Ennion G. Williams, read yesterday to the State Board of Health at its annual meeting. Typhoid fever, according to the Health Commissioner, showed a marked decline during the past year, and the war had waged against them by the State and local health authorities presages still greater victories during the next year. During the statistical year 1909 the Department of Health estimated 14,298 cases of typhoid fever in the State, exclusive of the cities which have organized municipal health departments. During the year ending March 31, 1910 this number was reduced to 11,843, or a decline of 2,555. During 1909 the estimated number of cases of typhoid fever was 6,816, while in 1910 this number was reduced to 5,760, a decline of 1,156.

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SENATOR ELKINS PASSES AWAY

West Virginia Senator Passes Away After Illness Brought On by Overwork.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Special.—The death of Senator Stephen B. Elkins, of West Virginia, who died at midnight Thursday at his home, 1626 K Street, this city, the Senate has lost one of its leaders, and a commanding figure has been removed from the national political and business stage. Incidentally the Democratic party will profit by his death. The death of Senator Elkins means two additional Democrats in the Senate. The West Virginia Democrats at the recent election obtained control of the Legislature, which was in session. Governor Glascock will have no opportunity to appoint, and instead of electing the successor to Senator Scott, the Senate will have to wait an hour before the end.

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2,000 KILLED IN RUSSIAN QUAKE

Great Fissures in Earth Open Up and Natives Are Swallowed Up.

TASHKEND, ASIATIC RUSSIA. Special.—Two thousand soldiers, accounted for relief work, were today killed in the earthquake-stricken territory of Semirechensk. The territory, where fully 2,000 are now reported to have been killed or wounded in the terrific and devastating tremor which rocked the district yesterday. Practically 1,000 miles of territory are said to have been ravaged, with whole towns wiped out and wide fissures in the ground growing hourly. Reports from towns and villages on the edge of the death belt, whither refugees fled in great numbers during the night, stated today that conditions in the interior of the devastated zone are horrifying beyond description. A big detachment of troops was ordered to hurry at all possible speed from the Turkestan army to the stricken Vyerny, a fortified town of 23,000 inhabitants, which is reported towards its ruins.

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